

Chris O'Brien

From: Eli Nixon <ramshackleenterprises@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:50 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: No \$ for Police

Dear Legislators and Finance Committee,

My name is Eli Nixon, I live in Pawtucket and grew up in South County. I am writing as a taxpayer and constituent to urge you **please do not assign \$35 million dollars to the police for anything!** Not for new barracks, not for more guns, not for more officers. The only \$ you should be directing toward policing in RI is for comprehensive, ongoing antiracism and anti-oppression training, de-escalation training, and mental health screenings and support for all officers.

Can you imagine the incredible things that could happen in our state if that \$35 million went to starting a children's theater for RI foster kids, or building more affordable housing, or ensuring public buildings have safe drinking water and all gender/ accessible bathrooms, funding social workers, nurses and art programs in schools...

If you are still waffling about this \$35 mil, I encourage you to check out the RI State Council for The Arts Budget and see what local people have been able to do with that TINY amount of state funding and tell me that is not a better use of funds than a nicer place for people who already get paid more than most of us in RI, who actually make most of our lives more dangerous. NO MORE \$ for COPS!!

Thanks for hearing my testimony,
Eli Nixon
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